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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
Kunihiro ISHIZAKI et al. : Art Unit: 1711  
Serial No.: 10/724,895 : Examiner: O. Asinovsky  
Filed: December 2, 2003 :  
For: PROCESS FOR CONTINUOUS :  
PRODUCTION OF WATER-ABSORBENT :  
RESIN PRODUCT :

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 31, 2005 restricting this application to Group I, including claims 1, 2 and 4-6, Group II including claim 3, Group III, including claims 7 and 8, and Group IV, including claims 9 and 10.

In response, Applicants elect the Group I claims, including claims 1, 2 and 4-6. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 should be examined simultaneously with claims 1, 2 and 4-6 of Group I. Claims 1 and 3 are directed to a process for the continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product including the step of measuring a water-absorbent resin by its predetermined property. Thus, the process of Group I and Group II are related and overlap.

The Action states that the Group I and Group II claims are unrelated since the inventions allegedly have different functions. The basis for this restriction is unclear since

both claims are directed to a process for producing a water-absorbent resin product by the same step. Therefore, the process of the Group I and Group II claims do not have different modes of operation, different functions or different effects so that the claims should be examined together.

In view of the above, the restriction between the Group I and Group II claims should be withdrawn. Prompt and favorable examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett V. Davis  
Reg. No. 32,023

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.  
1300 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 659-9076

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